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*Notes on Some Birds from Santa Barbara Islands, California.* By Harry C. Oberholser. From the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol, XXII, pages 229-234. (No. 1196).

This is an annotated list of a collection of birds made by Mr. Clark P. Streater, under the auspices of the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture, from April 9 to July 20, 1892. The list comprises twenty-seven species. The annotations have chiefly to do with range and plumage.—L. J.

*Birds in Horticulture.* By Wm. E. Praeger.

We have seldom seen twelve printed pages so full of sound logic and indisputable fact, and so full of suggestions that can readily be acted upon, as this one. The author clearly shows, first the damage done by insects to crops in the state of Illinois; second, how much of insect food the birds destroy during the year, and finally estimates how much value in grains, fruits and garden vegetables would be saved if the bird population could be increased by one per cent. The latter part of the paper is naturally devoted to answering the question How can we bring about this increase of one per cent. He would encourage the growth of wild fruits upon which the birds are wont to feed, instead of cutting it down as so much rubbish. Mulberry trees are possibilities in every yard, and furnish the birds with a royal banquet just at the time when cherries and blackberries ripen. The encouragement of wild fruits serves a twofold purpose; furnishing the birds with an easily procured food supply and so lessening their appropriations from the orchards and gardens. He does not deny that birds may sometimes do damage, but makes it plain that these few depredations can readily be prevented by the use of scarecrows and other harmless devices. We heartily commend the paper to our readers.—L. J.

*Half Hours with the Birds.* By Christopher Greaves.

This little twenty-seven page pamphlet treats of "The Cardinal at Home," "The Blue Jay as He Is," "The Shrike or Butcherbird," "A Chat on Birds' Eggs," "A Remedy for the Sparrow Plague," "The Orioles." These topics are treated in a popular chatty manner, with a hint or more about the colors and songs and food habits of the birds, with some touches of life history. It seems to us unfortunate that the

author has confused the Northern Shrike with the smaller summer form. The Northern 'being the winter bird and the Loggerhead (or Migrant?) the summer form. It is no less unfortunate that he seems to favor the egg collecting mania which attacks every boy; better to discourage such practices. But in his discussion of the Orioles the author has turned to the other extreme by not a little overdrawing the picture for the the average case when the male of a pair has been killed. We turn eagerly to the "Remedy for the Sparrow Plague" in the hope of at last solving the problem of the Sparrow. The author is undoubtedly right in his statement that the only sure remedy is to find some bird which will prey upon the Sparrow, but the difficulty will be to find one that is sufficiently numerous to make any impression. The author thinks that the "Great Northern Shrike" is the bird. The first difficulty with the selection of this bird is that he already has the name of being an indiscriminate butcher. Education may eliminate this difficulty. The second and more serious difficulty is the small numbers of the Shrikes as a group and the fact that they do not, and probably can never be induced to build in cities nor sufficiently near to them to be of any use there. But we can encourage the increase of all small birds of prey and to cease prosecute them in the hope that they will in time become bold enough to prey upon the Sparrows wherever they may be found. The pamphlet is neatly gotten up, printed on good paper and the typography is almost faultless. A half tone of the author as a frontispiece adds to the interest of the paper.

—L. J.

*Chapman's Bird Studies With a Camera.\**

It is seldom that a book has been so opportunely placed before the public. The study of birds with a camera is the youngest child of Ornithology, but already it gives abundant promise of a development which can accomplish nothing less than a complete revolution of a world-wild attitude toward the birds. The author of this little book has spared neither time

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\*Bird Studies | With a Camera | with introductory chapters | on the outfit and methods | of the bird photographer | By Frank M. Chapman | Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Zoology in the American Museum of Natural History, and author of Handbook of the Birds of Eastern North America, Bird-Life, etc. | with over one hundred photographs from nature by the author. | New York. | D. Appleton and Company, | 1900. | \$1.75.